

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3043

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3043, a bill to award planning grants and implementation grants to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies to complete comprehensive planning to carry out activities designed to integrate engineering education into K-12 instruction and curriculum and to provide evaluation grants to measure efficacy of K-12 engineering education.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution designating March 2010 as "National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of autoimmune diseases and increase funding for autoimmune disease research.

S. RES. 409

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 409, a resolution calling on members of the Parliament in Uganda to reject the proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill", and for other purposes.

S. RES. 414

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 414, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the recovery, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Haiti following the humanitarian crisis caused by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 3053. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to permit the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to be used for transportation and use of dredged materials for abandoned mine reclamation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to introduce legislation concerning the beneficial use of materials derived from river dredging activities. This concept was the subject of a Committee Resolution passed by the Committee on Environment and Public Works on October 26, 2005.

This legislation relates directly to the deepening of the Delaware River, which was authorized in the 1992 Water

Resources Development Act. The project deepens from 40 to 45 feet the main shipping channel of the Delaware River from Philadelphia and Camden, NJ, to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Deepening the river will help sustain and grow the maritime economy of the Delaware Valley region, as the river's current depth, which has remained stagnant since 1941, does not accommodate the size of most modern ships.

Despite the tremendous benefit the deepening will have on the region, some concerns have been raised regarding the disposal of the dredge material that will be produced during the deepening process. Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers dredges the river every year to maintain the 40-foot depth and deposits materials in Corps-owned sites along the river. While capacity remains at these sites, there are compelling questions about whether dredge material may have other useful purposes.

On October 26, 2005, the Committee on Environment and Public Works passed a Resolution requesting the Army Corps of Engineers to study the beneficial uses of dredge material from the Delaware River, including the potential for use in coal and other mine restoration areas. The Corps has undertaken this study with funding I secured for the past several years and intend to request this year and in the future. The outcome of this study could yield tremendous benefits for the Nation, including in the Delaware Valley region and in Pennsylvania, where there are already proposals to use the dredge materials.

One such proposal involves using dredge material from the Delaware River Deepening project to reclaim abandoned mine lands in northeast Pennsylvania. One likely benefit would be stream quality improvement in the Pocono Mountains due to a reduction in acid mine flows. This proposal would also help advance an economic development project in Hazleton, PA, which could potentially create thousands of jobs and contribute to the economic development of a region still impacted by the decline of the coal industry. The use of dredge material for these purposes has been endorsed by numerous local elected officials, state legislators and members of the community.

The legislation I have introduced would authorize the use of funding under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for the transportation and use of dredge material in the reclamation of abandoned mines. Specifically, an eligible use of this funding would be for dredging material from the Delaware River for use in abandoned mines around the State of Pennsylvania. This use could significantly reduce the amount of additional dredge material deposited along the river as well as advance the mine cleanup effort which has been ongoing for decades in Pennsylvania.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 427—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2010 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 427

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the World Health Organization, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Surgeon General currently state that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos;

Whereas the United States has reduced its consumption of asbestos substantially, yet continues to consume almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2010 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.